



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 02/08/2008

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 2/6/08

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*		Dunn	Phelps*	Mahoney
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan	
Ferrara	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Gordon Jamieson, Carol Band, Mona Zeffel

MINUTES of 2/4/08 accepted as amended. Unanimous.

ART 74: CRB REPORT: Jamieson, using a detailed handout in this & following presentations, stated that a report containing the information listed in the article would help the town better understand the cost of local control of the retirement funds. He stated that the Town Counsel had said that the authority of the Town Meeting to require the CRB to report is debatable. He also presented projections of the cost to the town of current rate of return of CRB investments vs PRIT investments.

VOTED favorable action on paragraphs 1 and 3 of the article, retaining "require" in paragraph 1. Unanimous.

ART 75 SERVICES TO NON-PROFITS: Jamieson reviewed the history of this article under which the BoS, in 2006, promised to direct the Manager to report on the cost of these services. The purpose is to promote equity and to consider the affordability of continuing such support.

VOTED No report 9 – 1. The FinCom will encourage the Manager to follow through on the report.

ART 68 TIP FEE FUND: Jamieson proposes that revenue into the fund be treated as income and be formally appropriated to the sanitation budget. He believes this, in concert with setting a trash reduction goal, will improve the Town's motivation to reduce trash incineration in favor of recycling. The FinCom feels that there is motivation now and the information provided in the FinCom (Appendix E in last years's report) is comprehensive.

VOTED No action. Unanimous.

ART 73 MEDICARE PART D REIMBURSEMENT: Jamieson stated that since these funds are health care reimbursements, they should be applied to offset health care costs. He feels that this is desirable because as these costs exceed the 7% cap, they will require cuts in services. He believes that the proposed budget is conservative and could afford direct appropriations to OPEB. In discussion some FinCom members were sympathetic with the idea but were also mindful of the original earmark of this money to OPEB when it was a novel revenue source. In addition members thought it unwise to weaken the 7% cap in the 5 year plan. A motion to appropriate Part D reimbursement to offset health insurance failed 3-7-1.

VOTED no action. 9-1.

ART 76 SPED FUNDING: Jamieson stated that SPED costs are beyond local control. He proposes to allow them a 7% cap like health insurance to minimize the impact on mainstream education.

In discussion, members recalled the loss of control of SPED costs when SPED transportation was treated as a "fixed" cost.

Currently the Superintendent, recognizing the pressure of SPED on the budget, is taking steps to bring services into the district and thus reduce transportation costs..

VOTED no action. Unanimous.

Jamieson also described a budget spread sheet he has created & would be glad to provide which facilitates evaluating future financial effects of budget decisions. The Chair thanked Jamieson for his work & suggestions.

ART 54 SWIMMING POOL: Band explained the need for a place in town to do serious swimming. Such a facility might create a revenue stream. She wants to form a study committee and is not requesting any funds this year.

VOTED favorable action with \$0 and the understanding that any such facility would be self supporting. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE Scheduled hearings:

On 2/11 Treasurer on Pension Obligation Bonds, Borrowing for OPEB.

On 2/13 Assessor on Revaluation.

On 2/20 TAC

On 2/25 Harrington on Sidewalks School Routes.

On 2/27 Town Manager on Town Budgets.

On 3/3 Capital Planning Committee on Capital Budget.

On 3/5 Moderator on Warrant timing.

On 3/10 Permanent Town Building Committee on Thompson School.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$276,706.28

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/7/08 Revised 2/11/08

cc FinCom Members, Selectmen, Town Manager, Comptroller, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 1/28	# 2/4	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
18	5	Bylaw Amend 1,1,2, Open Warrant			
27	7	Bylaw Amend Afford House Trust			Foskett to study
20	14	Bylaw Amend Snow Removal			
21	15	Bylaw Amend 1,18 Mtg Notices	2/4		Tabled Tosti to discuss w / BoS
63	39	Increase Accidental Death Benefit	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
64	40	Extend Benefits	2/4	2/4	No Action Dunn to write comment.
62	41	Pension Adjustments	2/4	2/4	Favorable action
65	42	Transfer OPEB Funds	2/4	2/4	Tabled. Report from Maher, Treasurer hearing
66	43	Transfer OPEB Funds			ACRB
68	44	Borrowing for OPEB			
67	45	Pension Obligation Funds			
45	47	Positions reclassification			Phelps to present
43	48	Collective Bargaining			
44	49	Future Collective Bargaining			
46	51	Budgets			
47	52	Capital Budget			Hearing 3/3 8:00
55	55	Sewers			
	54	Swimming Pool	2/6	2/6	Favorable action \$0
56	56	Water			
48	57	Rescind authority to borrow			
48	57	Rescind Authority to Borrow			
50	58	Minuteman Tech			DeCoursey to schedule
51	59	Town Celebrations			Twn Man
53	60	Committees & Commissions			hearing if last year approp not OK
52	62	Miscellaneous			Twn Man
28	63	Town Water Bodies			Hearing in mid-March
70	64	Harry Barber Service Program			hearing if last year approp not OK
71	65	Revaluation			
69	66	Local Option Taxes			
72	67	Tip Fee Stab Fund			
58	68	Tip Fund Money Appropriation	2/6	2/6	No action
73	69	Cemetery			
74	70	Overlay Reserve Surplus			
75	71	Stabilization Fund			
76	72	Free Cash			
59	73	Medicare Part D Reimbursement	2/6	2/6	No action 9-2
57	75	Services to Non-Profits	2/6	2/6	No report 9-1 Encourage follow through
60	76	SPED	2/6	2/6	No action

VOTE SUMMARY -Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom				
2	Board of Selectmen				
3	Town Manager				
4	Personnel				
5	Comptroller				
6	Treasurer				
7	Postage				
8	Assessors				
	Information Technology				
9	Legal				
10	Town Clerk				
11	Registrar of Voters				
12	Parking				
13	Planning				
14	Redevelopment Board				
15	Zoning Board of Appeals				
16	Public Works				
17a	Community Safety Admin				
17b	Police				
17c	Fire				
17d	Support				
18	Inspections				
19	Education				
20	Library				
21a	Health & Human Services				
21b	Veterans				
21c	COA				
22	Retirement				
23	Insurance				
24	Street Lighting				
25	Reserve Fund				
W&S					
Rec					
Rnk					
COA					
Youth					